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Applicant's or agent's file reference 035003	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/000314	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 14 March 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 14 March 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ A43B 3/24		
Applicant BRUCE, Darren Paul et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 October 2003	Date of completion of the report 23 June 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer Geoff Sadlier Telephone No. (02) 6283 2114

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☐ the description, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the drawings, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 3-14	YES
	Claims 1, 2, 15-18	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 3-14	YES
	Claims 1, 2, 15-18	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-18	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered for the purposes of this report:

D1 - US 5778564
D2 - FR 2659837
D3 - US 5566477
D4 - US 5311676
D5 - US 3994080
D6 - US 6212797

The claimed invention relates to shoes adapted to accept a range of interchangeable covers, so as to alter the appearance and/or use environment of the shoe assembly.

Claim 1 defines an interchangeable footwear system in which any one of a plurality of interchangeable covers are adapted to be fitted to a base shoe.

However each of the documents D1-D6 clearly discloses a footwear system comprising a base shoe and interchangeable covers having all the features defined in claim 1. Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 is not new and fails to meet the requirements of Article 33 PCT with regard to the requirement for novelty and inventive step.

Furthermore, the features added by appended claims 2 and 15-18 are either known from one or more of the documents D1-D6 or are features which are typical in devices of this type and therefore cannot be considered as contributing to patentable ingenuity.

Claims 3-14 are distinguished from the cited documents by the particular arrangement used to attach the cover to the base shoe. Therefore the subject matter of these claims is new and meets the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT with regard to the requirement for novelty. These claims are also not obvious in the light of any of the cited documents nor disclosed in any obvious combination, nor would these claims be obvious to a person skilled in the art in the light of common general knowledge by itself or in combination with any of the documents.

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III. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claim 4 is not clear because it is appended to itself. It appears that you may have intended to be appended that claim to claim 3 and hence the comments in box V were established on this basis.

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